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31. (New) A method comprising:

receiving a plurality of request signals, each of said plurality of request signals corresponding to a respective agent of a plurality of agents configured to couple to a bus, wherein each of said plurality of request signals is indicative of whether or not said respective agent is arbitrating for said bus;

receiving an agent identifier transmitted on said bus as part of a transaction, said agent identifier identifying a second agent using said bus; and

determining if a first agent wins an arbitration for said bus responsive to said plurality of request signals and said agent identifier.

32. (New) A carrier medium comprising a database which is operated upon by a program executable on a computer system, the program operating on the database to perform a portion of a process to fabricate an integrated circuit including circuitry described by the database, the circuitry described in the database including a first agent configured for coupling to a bus to which a plurality of agents are capable of being coupled, said first agent comprising an arbiter coupled to receive a plurality of request signals, each of said plurality of request signals corresponding to a respective agent of said plurality of agents, wherein each of said plurality of request signals is indicative of whether or not said respective agent is arbitrating for said bus, and wherein said arbiter is coupled to receive an agent identifier transmitted on said bus as part of a transaction, said agent identifier identifying a second agent using said bus, and wherein said arbiter is configured to determine if said first agent wins an arbitration for said bus responsive to said plurality of request signals and said agent identifier.

33. (New) The carrier medium as recited in claim 32, wherein said arbiter comprises one or more registers configured to store a state indicative of: (i) which of said plurality of

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agents are higher priority than said first agent for said arbitration; and (ii) which of said plurality of agents are lower priority than said first agent for said arbitration.

34. (New) The carrier medium as recited in claim 33 wherein said arbiter further includes a circuit configured to generate a grant signal to said first agent responsive to said plurality of request signals and said state, said grant signal indicative of whether or not said first agent wins said arbitration.

35. (New) The carrier medium as recited in claim 34 wherein said circuit is further responsive to said agent identifier to generate said grant signal.

36. (New) The carrier medium as recited in claim 33 wherein said arbiter further comprises a circuit configured to update said state responsive to said agent identifier, wherein said circuit is configured to update said state to indicate that said second agent identified by said agent identifier is lower priority than said first agent if said second agent is different than said first agent.

37. (New) The carrier medium as recited in claim 36 wherein said circuit is further configured to update said state to indicate that each of said plurality of agents is higher priority than said first agent responsive to said first agent winning said arbitration.

38. (New) The carrier medium as recited in claim 32 wherein said bus is a split transaction bus, and wherein said arbiter is configured to arbitrate for an address portion of said bus, and wherein said agent identifier is a portion of a transaction identifier for said transaction.

39. (New) The carrier medium as recited in claim 32 wherein said bus is a split transaction bus, and wherein said arbiter is configured to arbitrate for a data portion of said bus, and wherein said agent identifier is separate from a transaction identifier for said transaction.

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40. (New) A carrier medium comprising a database which is operated upon by a program executable on a computer system, the program operating on the database to perform a portion of a process to fabricate an integrated circuit including circuitry described by the database, the circuitry described in the database including an arbiter comprising:

one or more registers configured to store a state indicative of: (i) which of a plurality of agents coupled to a bus are higher priority than a first agent for an arbitration, and (ii) which of said plurality of agents are lower priority than said first agent for said arbitration; and

a first circuit coupled to receive an agent identifier indicative of a second agent using said bus, said agent identifier transmitted on said bus as part of a transaction, wherein said first circuit is configured to update said state responsive to said agent identifier.

41. (New) The carrier medium as recited in claim 40 wherein said first circuit is configured to update said state to indicate that said second agent is lower priority than said first agent if said second agent is different from said first agent.

42. (New) The carrier medium as recited in claim 40 wherein said arbiter further comprises a second circuit coupled to said one or more registers and coupled to receive a plurality of request signals, each of said plurality of request signals corresponding to a respective agent of said plurality of agents and indicative of whether or not said respective agent is arbitrating for said bus, and wherein said second circuit is configured to determine if said first agent wins said arbitration responsive to said state and said plurality of request signals.

43. (New) The carrier medium as recited in claim 42 wherein said first circuit is configured to update said state to indicate that each of said plurality of agents is higher priority than said first agent responsive to said first agent winning said arbitration.

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44. (New) The carrier medium as recited in claim 42 wherein said second circuit is configured to determine if said first agent wins said arbitration further responsive to said agent identifier.

45. (New) The carrier medium as recited in claim 40 wherein said bus is a split transaction bus, and wherein said arbiter is configured to arbitrate for an address portion of said bus.

46. (New) The carrier medium as recited in claim 45 wherein said agent identifier is a portion of a transaction identifier for said transaction.

47. (New) The carrier medium as recited in claim 40 wherein said bus is a split transaction bus, and wherein said arbiter is configured to arbitrate for a data portion of said bus.

48. (New) The carrier medium as recited in claim 47 wherein said agent identifier is separate from a transaction identifier for said transaction.

REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 1-48 are pending. In the present Office Action, claims 17-21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Claims 1-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Schnell, U.S. Patent No. 6,199,133 ("Schnell"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections and request reconsideration.

Claims 1-16

Applicants respectfully submit that each of claims 1-16 recite combinations of features not taught or suggested in Schnell. For example, claim 1 recites a combination of features including: "said arbiter is coupled to receive an agent identifier transmitted on said bus as part of a transaction, said agent identifier identifying a second agent using said bus, and wherein said arbiter is configured to determine if said first agent wins an